

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 GAC-01 ACDA-19 MC-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-14 NSC-10 DODE-00

PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 075515

R 310940 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7160

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 694

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MASS CY EI

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF ARMS FROM CYPRUS FLAG SHIP NEAR IRELAND

REF: DUBLIN 416

SUMMARY: CLAUDIA CASE HIGHLIGHTS CYPRUS FLAG OF CONVEN-
IENCE PROBLEM.

1. LOCAL PRESS GIVES HEAVY COVERAGE TO IRISH GOVT SEIZURE OF
ARMS FROM CYPRIOT FLAG VESSEL CLAUDIA OFF IRISH COAST. PRESS
STATES CLAUDIA WAS REGISTERED IN CYPRUS NOV 1972 BY
PROMINENT LOCAL LAWYER LEFKOS CLERIDES ON BEHALF OF GIROMAR
SHIPPING CO. WHOSE DIRECTORS ARE WEST GERMANS. PRESS SPECULATES
AS TO ORIGIN OF ARMS, CONSIDERING LIBYA MOST LIKELY SOURCE BUT
NOT EXCLUDING CYPRUS.

2. COMMERCE MIN COLOCCASSIDES TOLD ME MAR 29 THAT SHIP
HAD LAST CALLED IN CYPRUS IN JAN AND THAT CYPRUS GOVT HAD
NO WAY OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ITS ACTIVITIES SINCE THAT
TIME. I TOOK OCCASION TO SUGGEST ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT
GOVT TIGHTEN UP ITS SHIPPING LEGISLATION SO THAT OWNERS
OF CYPRUS FLAG SHIPS MIGHT BE RESTRAINED WITH AT LEAST
SOME EFFECTIVENESS FROM INVOLVING CYPRUS IN ILLEGAL
OR EMBARRASSING ACTIVITIES. (SUCH
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SHIPS HAVE IN PAST BEEN BARRED ONLY FROM VIETNAM WAR ZONE). I SAID THAT IF A LEGAL BASIS WERE PROVIDED FOR PENALIZING CYPRUS FLAG SHIP OWNERS FOR CONTRARY TO CYPRUS GOVT LAW OR POLICY, GOVT WOULD NOT HAVE TO STAND QUITE SO HELPLESSLY BY IN INSTANCES SUCH AS CLAUDIA CASE.

3. WE HAVE MADE THIS POINT BEFORE, IN CONNECTION WITH OUR FRUITLESS EFFORTS TO INDUCE CYPRUS GOVT TO CURB CYRPSUS FLAG SHIP CALLS TO CUBA. POWERFUL VESTED INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED IN SHIP REGISTRY BUSINESS, AND CYPRUS GOVT SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM SERIOUSLY UNLESS PATTERN OF EMBARRASSING EVENTS IS ESTABLISHED.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS RE CLAUDIS CASE WHICH MIGHT BE RELEVANT HERE. POPPER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO DUBLIN
LONDON
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